

## LDS View of God Contradicts the Bible

### LDS Prophet Joseph Smith taught that God was once a mortal man:

“**God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens!** That is the great secret. . . . **I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away the veil, . . .**

“It is the first principle of the gospel to know for a certainty the character of God, . . . and that **He was once a man like us; yea, that God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ Himself did; . . . you have got to learn how to be gods yourselves, and to be kings and priests to God, the same as all gods have done before you, namely, by going from one small degree to another, . . . from exaltation to exaltation, until you attain to the resurrection of the dead, and are able to dwell in everlasting burnings, and to sit in glory, as do those who sit enthroned in everlasting power**” (*History of the Church*, vol. 6, ch. 14, pp. 305-6).

### LDS President Brigham Young declared that God was once a finite being:

“It appears ridiculous to the world, under their darkened and erroneous traditions, that **God has once been a finite being**” (*Deseret News*, Nov. 16, 1859, p. 290).

### LDS President Joseph Fielding Smith said that God had a father, a grandfather, etc.:

“Our **father in heaven**, according to the Prophet, **had a father**, and since there has been a condition of this kind through all eternity, **each Father had a Father**” (*Doctrines of Salvation*, 2:47).

### LDS President Joseph F. Smith taught that God was born as a mortal on some other earth:

“I know that God is a being with body, parts and passions . . . Man was born of woman; Christ, the Savior, was born of woman; and **God, the Father was born of woman**” (*Deseret News*, Church News, Sept. 19, 1936, p. 2).

### LDS Apostle Bruce R. McConkie taught:

“The Father is a glorified, perfected, **resurrected, exalted man who worked out his salvation by obedience** to the same laws he has given to us so that we may do the same” (*A New Witness for the Articles of Faith*, p. 64).

### LDS Apostle Melvin Ballard explained that God has a wife:

“For as we have a **Father in heaven**, so also we have a **Mother** there, a glorified, exalted, ennobled **Mother**” (As quoted in *Achieving a Celestial Marriage*, LDS Church manual, 1976, p. 129).

### LDS Doctrine and Covenants promises the faithful LDS couple that they can achieve godhood in the same manner as God the Father:

“. . . if a **man marry a wife**, and make a covenant with her **for time and for all eternity**, . . . they shall

[have] . . . a **continuation of the seeds** [children] forever and ever. Then shall they **be gods**, because they have no end; therefore shall they be from everlasting to everlasting, . . . Then shall they be gods, because they have all power, . . . and **continuation of the lives**, . . . [endless procreation of spirit children]” (*Doctrine and Covenants*, Section 132:18-22).

### LDS President Brigham Young taught that faithful Mormons can achieve godhood:

“Intelligent beings are organized **to become Gods**, even the Sons of God, to dwell in the **presence of the Gods**, and become associated with the highest intelligences that dwell in eternity. We are now in the school, and must practice upon what we receive” (*Discourses of Brigham Young*, p. 245).

### LDS President Joseph F. Smith said:

“We are **precisely in the same condition** and under the **same circumstances** that **God** our heavenly Father was **when he was passing through this, or a similar ordeal**” (*Gospel Doctrine*, p. 54).

As recently as 2007 both Apostles Boyd K. Packer and Dallin Oaks, during an interview for PBS, explained that God the father has a resurrected body.

### Apostle Boyd K. Packer stated:

“That vision [Joseph Smith's 1820 vision] taught us some things. We learned about the personality of God the Father, a **resurrected Being**, as part of our gospel.”

### Apostle Dallin Oaks used the same term when he was interviewed:

“The first revelation received by Joseph Smith was the appearance to him of the Father and the Son embodied, separate, identifiable, tangible Beings who appeared to him in what we refer to as the First Vision. And that first revelation, concerning the nature of God as an embodied, glorified, resurrected Being, challenged the creeds of Christianity. Christianity describes God as a disembodied, incomprehensible, spiritual entity that fills the whole universe, and an indistinguishable Father and Son.”

### LDS Apostle James E. Talmage taught that God progressed from a mortal to a god:

“We believe in a God who is Himself **progressive**, whose majesty is intelligence; whose perfection consists in **eternal advancement** — a Being who has **attained** His exalted state by a path which now His children are permitted to follow, whose glory it is their heritage to share. **In spite of the opposition of the sects, in the face of direct charges of blasphemy, the Church proclaims the eternal truth: ‘As man is, God once was; as God is, man may be’**” (*Articles of Faith*, ch. 24, pp. 430-431).

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# What the Bible Says About God

## 1. ALWAYS GOD - in the past as well as in the future.

“Art thou not from ever-lasting, O Lord my God, mine Holy One?” (Habakkuk 1:12)

“For I am the Lord, I change not.” (Malachi 3:6)

“... from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.” (Psalm 90:2)

“God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent.” (Numbers 23:19)

“Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, . . . who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever.” (Romans 1:22-25)

*The LDS god started as a finite man and progressed to godhood.*

## 2. ALWAYS HOLY - Both in the past and future.

“... a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.” (Deuteronomy 32:4)

“I am God, and not man; the Holy One in the midst of thee.” (Hosea 11:9)

“The Lord is righteous in all his ways and holy in all his works.” (Psalm 145:17)

“God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.” (1 John 1:5)

“Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness.” (Psalm 119:142)

*The LDS god achieved holiness.*

## 3. ALL KNOWING - Both in the past and in the future.

“Who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord, or being his counsellor hath taught him? With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding? . . . There is no searching of his understanding.” (Isaiah 40:13, 14, 28)

“Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.” (Psalm 147:5)

*The LDS god had to learn everything.*

## 4. ALL POWERFUL

“The Lord God omnipotent reigneth.” (Revelation 19:6)

“... his eternal power and Godhead.” (Romans 1:20)

*The LDS god attained his power.*

## 5. OMNIPRESENT

“The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; where is the house that ye build unto me: and where is the place of my rest?” (Isaiah 66:1)

“Am I a God at hand, saith the Lord, and not a God afar off? Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the Lord.” (Jeremiah 23:23-24)

*The LDS god can be in only one place at a time.*

## 6. ACTED ALONE IN CREATION

“I am the Lord that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone, that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself.” (Isaiah 44:24)

“By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.” (Psalm 33:6)

“Thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all.” (Nehemiah 9:6)

*The LDS god cooperated with the Council of Gods to create.*

## 7. NO OTHER GODS

“I am he; before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour.” (Isaiah 43:10-11)

“I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God. . . . is there a God beside me; yea, there is no God; I know not any.” (Isaiah 44:6, 8)

“To whom will ye liken me, and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be like? . . . for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me.” (Isaiah 46:5, 9)

“I am the Lord; that is my name; and my glory will I not give to another.” (Isaiah 42:8)

*The LDS God has a father and mother, grandparents, brothers and sisters, etc.*

For a more in-depth discussion of the LDS view of God and man, see *Mormonism and the Threefold Problem of Progression: Examining the LDS Doctrine of Eternal Progression in Light of the Bible, Philosophy, and Science.*

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